



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

Public Notice of Application for Permit

Regulatory Branch (1145b)
3437 Airport Way
Suite 206
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-4777

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: February 7, 2005

EXPIRATION DATE: March 8, 2005

REFERENCE NUMBER: POA-1994-143-4

WATERWAY NUMBER: Tanana River

AFTER-THE-FACT

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for certain work in waters of the United States as described below and shown on the attached plan.

APPLICANT: Mr. Anton K. Johansen, Great Northwest, Inc., Post Office Box 74646
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707

AGENT: Mr. Larry Peterson, Travis/Peterson Environmental Consulting, Inc.,
329 2nd Street, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

LOCATION: Van Horn Road Facility located within Section 20, T. 1 South, R. 1 West,
Fairbanks Meridian, in Fairbanks, Alaska.

WORK: The work consists of the retention of existing fill material placed within 4.0-acre wetlands including 1600' slough channel. Also, the proposed mechanized landclearing of 60 acres of wetlands associated with the development of a 60-acre material site, and the filling of an additional 59 acres of wetland for three industrial work pads. The material site, industrial pads, and slough channel fills are in accordance with the attached plans; sheets 1-8 dated November 30, 2004.

PURPOSE: The development of a material site for commercial gravel operation and the construction of industrial work pads for stockpiling excavated gravel, equipment storage, and possible leasing or selling for commercial property.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: All proposed work is located within a jurisdictional wetland that will be cleared by mechanized landclearing practices. The proposed development of three different sites for industrial work pads are noted in Area B, Area E, and Area F. An existing pad has been constructed in Area C. All pad construction will require the placement of 5-feet of fill material within the wetland area. Prior to the filling of the slough channel in Area B, the organic soil material will be removed from the channel bed and used in a reclamation demonstration area located on the northeast side in the existing pit. The demonstration area will be 400' in length and require an annual monitoring report to be submitted to the Corps of Engineers (see sheet 7 of 8). In addition, a 60-acre gravel pit is proposed to be excavated adjacent to the existing 40-acre pit. The proposed pit is anticipated to provide a gravel source for the next ten years. The existing pit is currently in operation, but is reaching the limits of economic

life. Gravel removal operation is accomplished by pumping the surface water out of the pit and into the adjacent Flood Control Channel "A" that drains into the Tanana River. Six large water pumps are used to lower the water level that allows construction equipment to drive into the pit and excavate gravel. In the past, Great Northwest, Inc. has dewatered the pit every two years, but dewatering may be yearly if gravel demands increase. During dewatering operations, pumps are run 24 hours a day, seven days a week between May 1 and September 30. With a maximum discharge rate of 15,000 gal/min for the combined pumps, 3.3 billion gallons of water could be discharged into Flood Control Channel "A" during a construction season (see sheet 1 of 8). During the excavation of the new pit, groundwater flow and surface water flow from the slough channel will be controlled by lowering the water level in the adjoining pit. Water flow between the two pits will be subsurface. Since the new pit will be shallower at first, the existing pit may require less dewatering. Great Northwest, Inc. proposes to place a temporary earthen plug into the channel east of the discharge point to keep water from flowing upstream toward the Metro Float Pond. The earthen dam will stay in place from May 1 to September 30. During flood events the earthen plug will be removed to allow for natural drainage in the channel.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: A permit for the described work will not be issued until a certification or waiver of certification, as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (Public Law 95-217), has been received from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

PUBLIC HEARING: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, reasons for holding a public hearing.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The latest published version of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) has been consulted for the presence or absence of historic properties, including those listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. There are no listed or eligible properties in the vicinity of the worksite. Consultation of the AHRS constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the District Engineer at this time, and he is otherwise unaware of the presence of such resources. This application is being coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Any comments SHPO may have concerning presently unknown archeological or historic data that may be lost or destroyed by work under the requested permit will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: No threatened or endangered species are known to use the project area. Preliminarily, the described activity will not affect threatened or endangered species, or their critical habitat designated as endangered or threatened, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844). This application is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service. Any comments they may have concerning endangered or threatened wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The proposed work is being evaluated for possible effects to Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) pursuant to the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1996 (MSFCMA), 16 U.S.C. et seq and associated federal regulations found at 50 CFR 600 Subpart K. The Alaska District includes areas of EFH as Fishery Management Plans. We have reviewed the January 20, 1999, North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Environmental Assessment to locate EFH areas as identified by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). We have determined that the described activity within the proposed area will not adversely affect EFH, including anadromous fish and federally managed fishery resources.

SPECIAL AREA DESIGNATION: None

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity and its intended use on the public interest. Evaluation of the probable impacts, which the proposed activity may have on the public interest, requires a careful weighing of all the factors that become relevant in each particular case. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The decision whether to authorize a proposal, and if so, the conditions under which it will be allowed to occur, are therefore determined by the outcome of the general balancing process. That decision should reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal, must be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. For activities involving 404 discharges, a permit will be denied if the discharge that would be authorized by such permit would not comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) guidelines. Subject to the preceding sentence and any other applicable guidelines or criteria (see Sections 320.2 and 320.3), a permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Comments on the described work, with the reference number, should reach this office no later than the expiration date of this Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Please contact Mr. Forrest E. McDaniel at (907) 474-2166, or email at Forrest.E.McDaniel@poa02.usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this notice.

AUTHORITY: This permit will be issued or denied under the following authority:

Discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States - Section 404 Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Therefore, our public interest review will consider the guidelines set forth under Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230).

A plan and Notice of Application for State Water Quality Certification are attached to this Public Notice.

District Engineer
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

Attachments

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI, GOVERNOR

STATE OF ALASKA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

DIVISION OF WATER

Non-Point Source Water Pollution Control Program
401 Certification Program

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR STATE WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

Any applicant for a federal license or permit to conduct an activity that might result in a discharge into navigable waters, in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (PL95-217), also must apply for and obtain certification from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation that the discharge will comply with the Clean Water Act, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. By agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Environmental Conservation, application for a Department of the Army permit to discharge dredged or fill material into navigable waters under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act also may serve as application for State Water Quality Certification.

Notice is hereby given that the application for a Department of the Army Permit described in the Corps of Engineers' Public Notice No. **POA-1994-143-4, Tanana River** serves as application for a short-term variance of State Water Quality Certification from the Department of Environmental Conservation, as provided in Section 401 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (PL 95-217).

The Department will review the proposed activity to ensure that, except for an allowed, short-term variance, any discharge to waters of the United States resulting from the referenced project will comply with the Clean Water Act of 1977 (PL95-217), the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. The Department also may deny or waive certification.

Any person desiring to comment on the project with respect to Water Quality Certification may submit written comments within 30 days of the date of the Corps of Engineer's Public Notice to:

Department of Environmental Conservation
WQM/401 Certification
555 Cordova Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2617
Telephone: (907) 269-7564
FAX: (907) 269-7508

AREA A

POA-1994-143-4

SHEET

OVERHEAD VIEW OF DAM

A

50 Feet

20'

A'

EXISTING GRAVEL PIT

Pumps

DISCHARGE LINES

ENLARGMENT OF AREA 'A'
TRACT A TO BE DAMMED
TEMPORARILY DURING PIT
DEWATERING OPERATIONS

TL-2038

CHANNEL A

TL-2038

20

10 Feet

A

SIDE

Tempo
PLUG
OF Ex
Propo

TRAVIS/PETERSON ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING, INC.
329 2ND STREET
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701

GREAT NORTHWEST, Inc.

PROJECT No: 1008-09

FILE: 1008/09/Figures/Permit Application Figures/2004/Fig 3

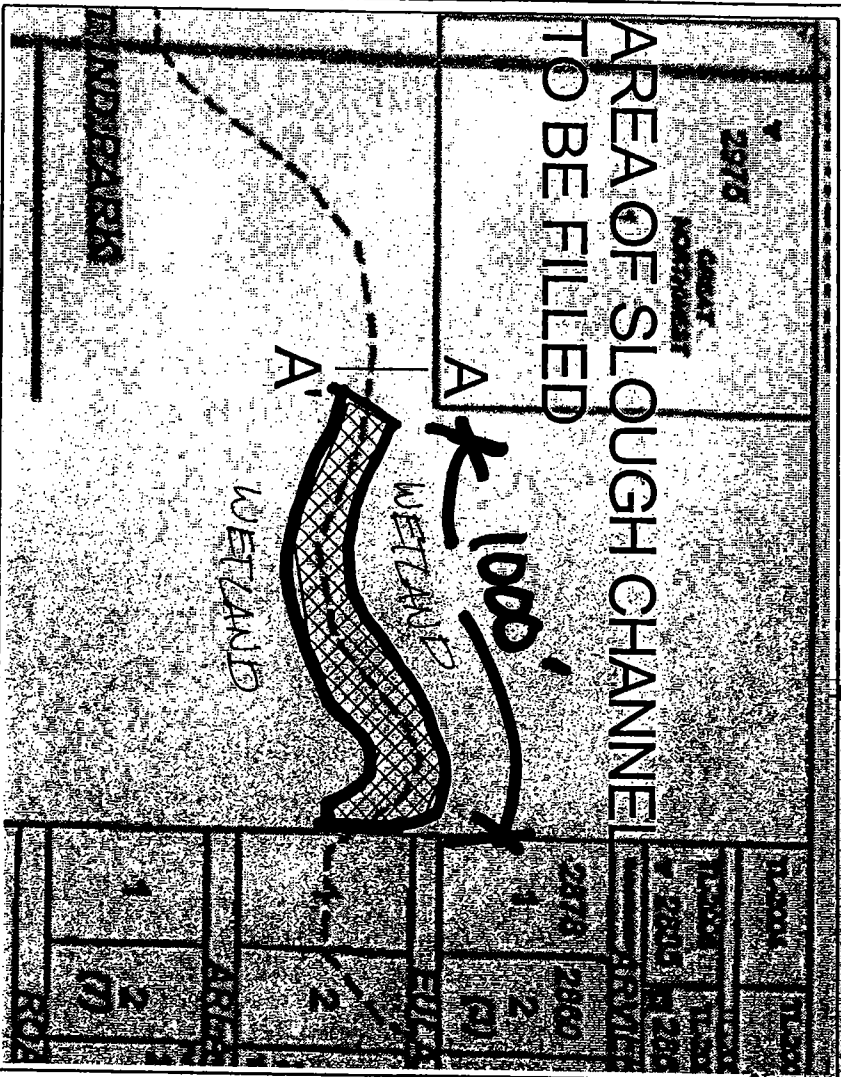
DATE: 11/30/04

AREA B

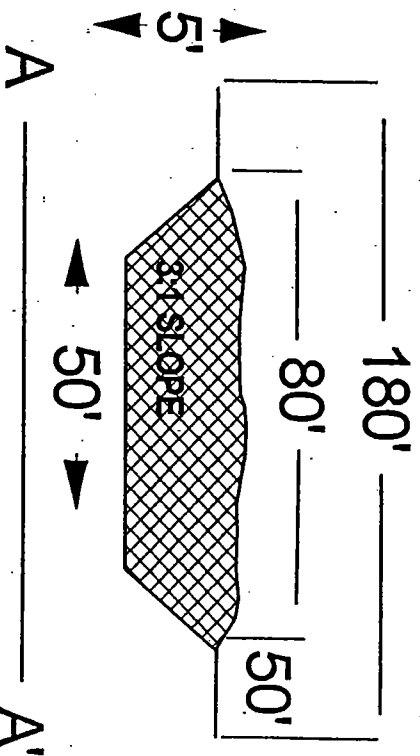
POA-1994-143-4

SHEET 2 of 8

PROPOSED SLOUGH
CHANNEL AND WETLAND
FILL (9.0 AC)



THIS AREA OF THE SLOUGH
WILL BE FILLED TO
ACCOMMODATE INDUSTRIAL
PAD EXPANSION



TRAVIS/PETERSON ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING, INC.
329 2ND STREET
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701

GREAT NORTHWEST, Inc.

FIGURE 4
SITE PLAN WITH ENLARGEMENT OF SLOUGH CHANNEL

PROJECT No: 1008-09

FILE: 1008/09/Figures/Permit Application Figures/2004/Fig 4

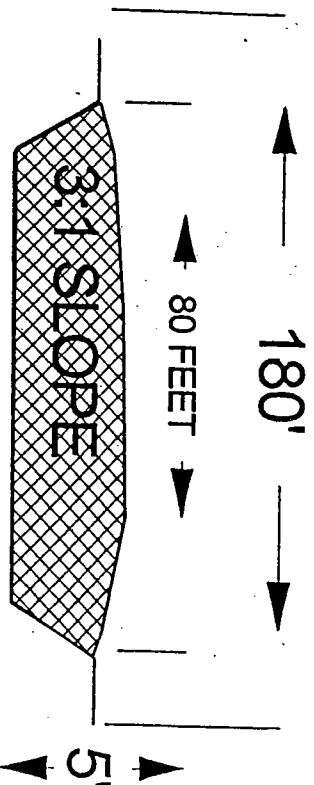
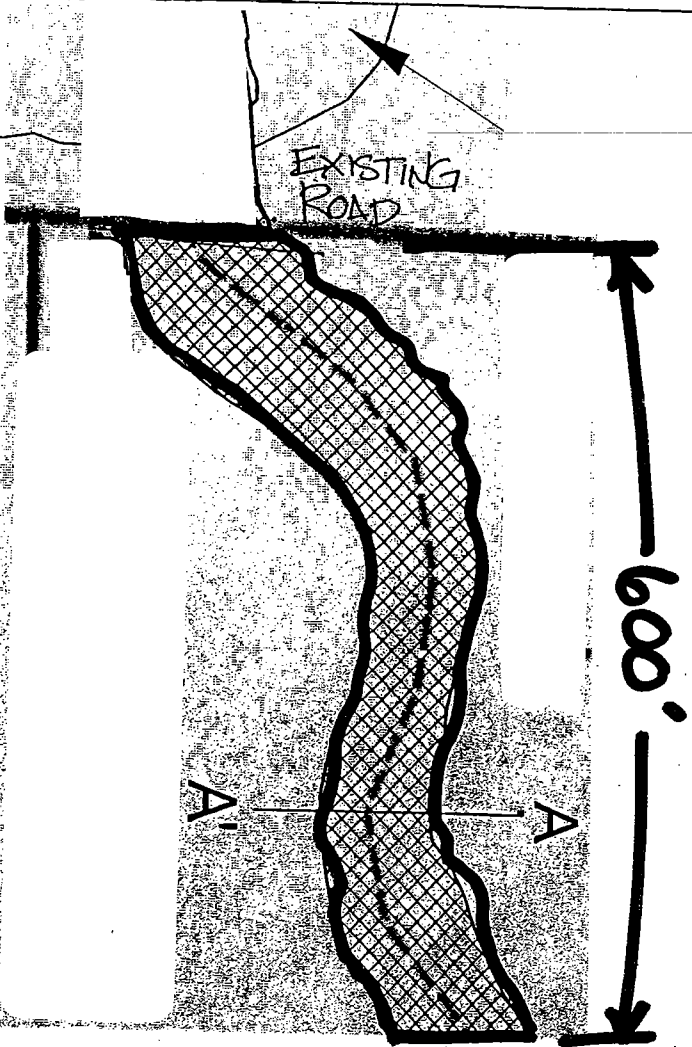
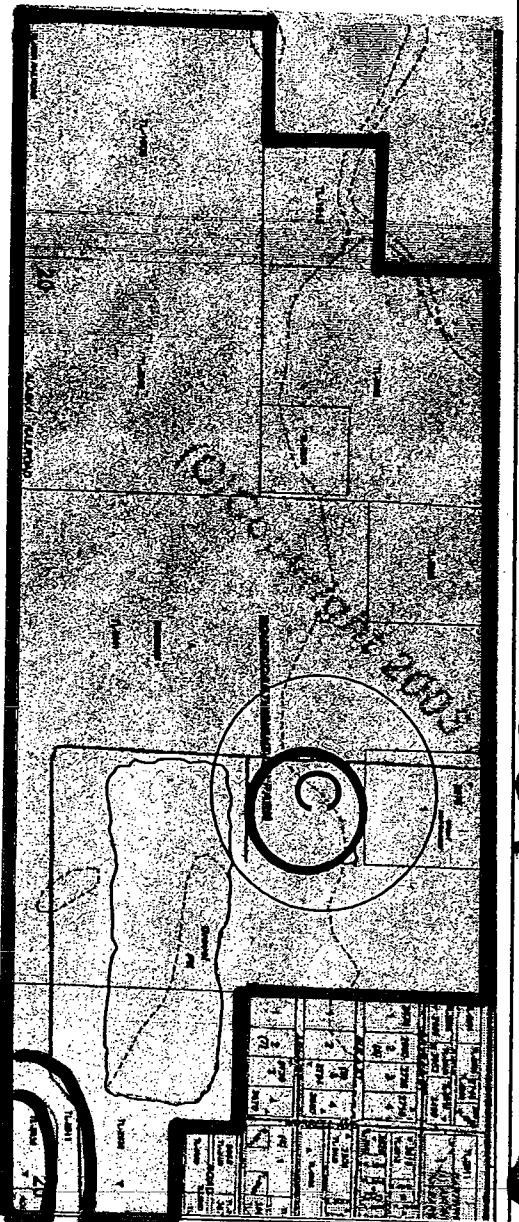
DATE: 11/30/04

SCALE: No Scale

AREA C

POA-1994-143-4

SHEET 3 of 8



EXISTING 600' OF SLOUGH
CHANNEL FILL AND 1.5 ACRE
WETLAND FILL

TRAVIS/PETERSON ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING, INC.
323 2ND STREET
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701

PROJECT No: 1091-02

FILE: 1008/09/Figures/Permit Application Figures/2004/Fig 5

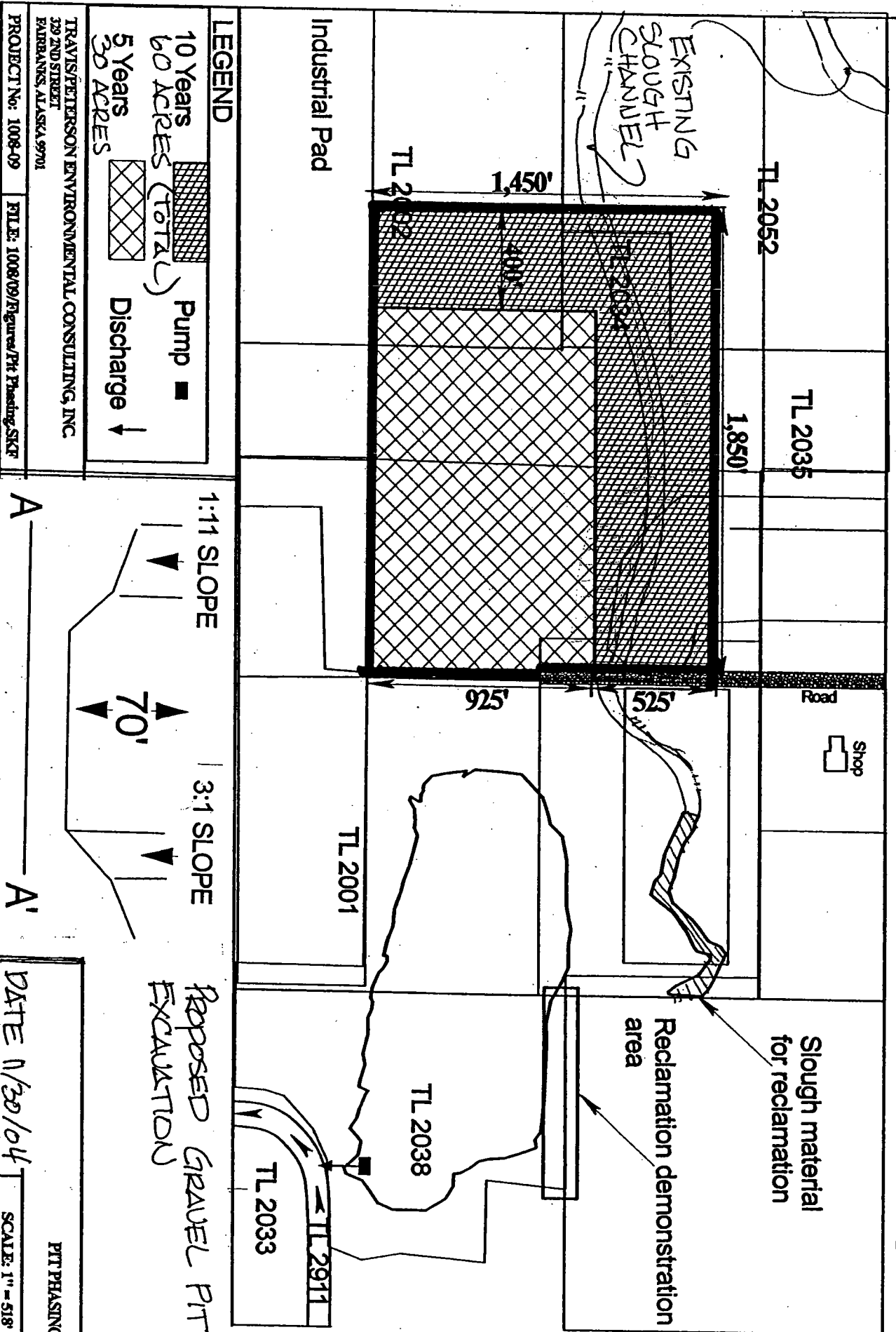
GREAT NORTHWEST, Inc.

FIGURE 5
AREA OF SLOUGH CHANNEL TO BE FILLED IN
DATE: 11/30/04
SCALE: No Scale

AREA D

POA-1994-143-4

SHEET 4 of 8

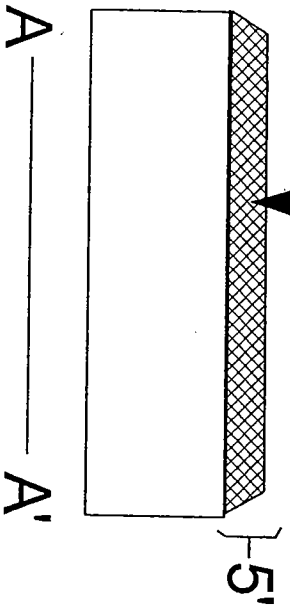


AREA E

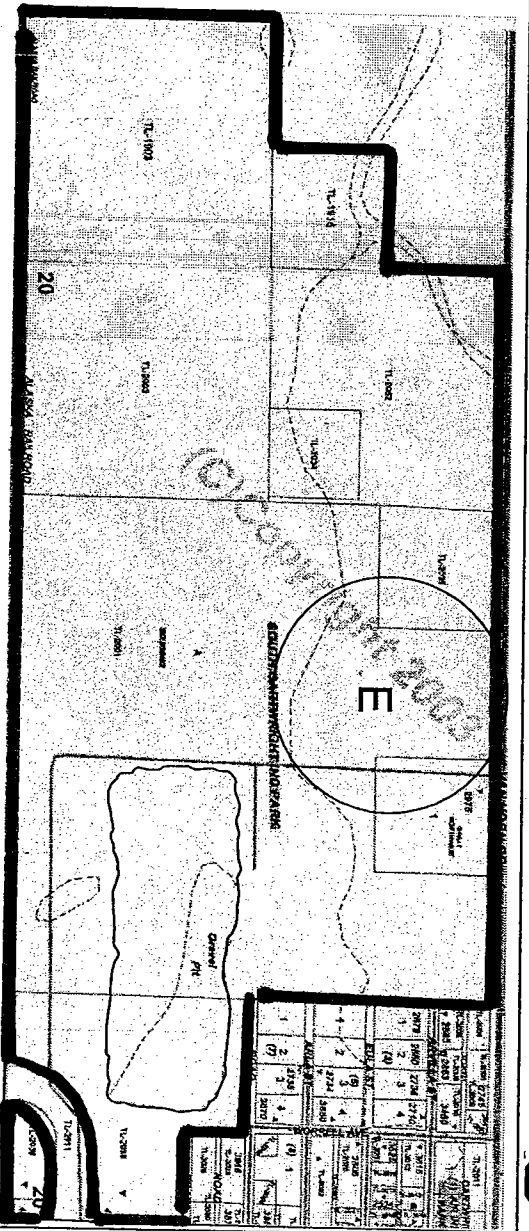
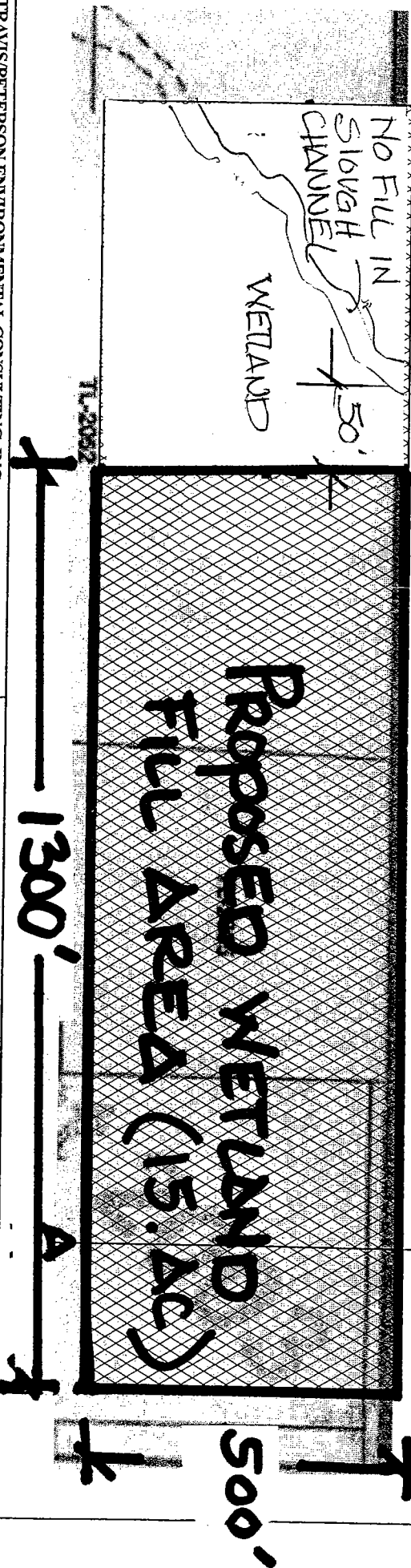
POA-1994-143-4

SHEET 5 of 8

FILL MATERIAL



AREA TO BE CLEARED
TO ACCOMMODATE ADDITIONS
TO NORTHERN INDUSTRIAL PAD



TRAVIS/PETERSON ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING, INC.
339 2ND STREET
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701

PROJECT No: 1008-09

FILE: 1008/09/Figure/Permit Application Figures/2004/FIG 8

DATE: 11/30/04

SCALE: No Scale

FIGURE 8
NORTHERN INDUSTRIAL PAD EXPANSION

AREA F

POA-1994-143-4

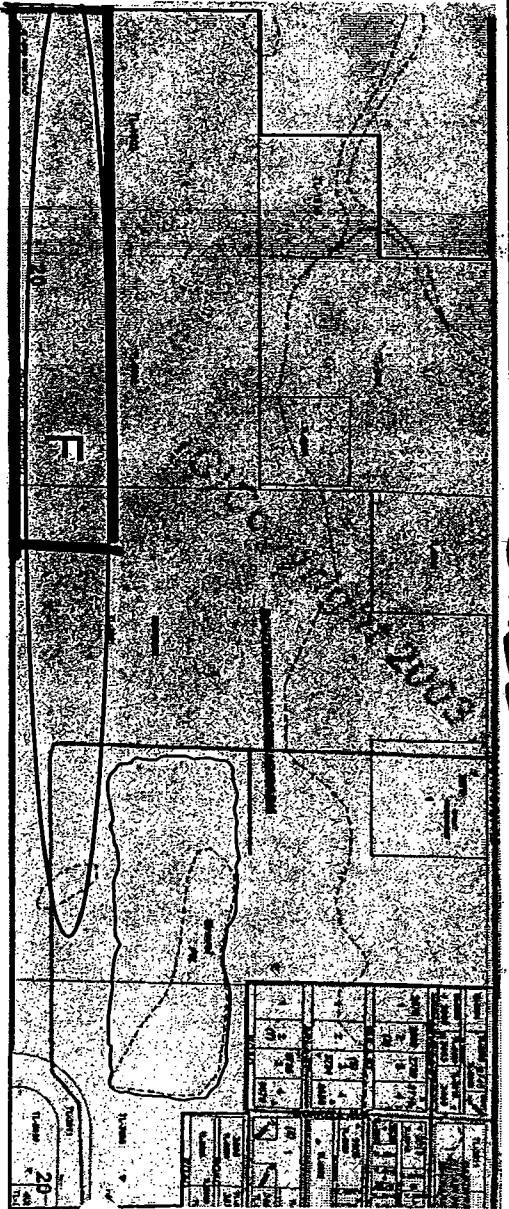
SHEET 6 OF 8

FILL MATERIAL

500'

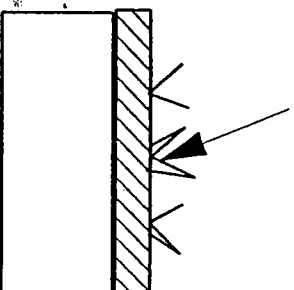
5'

A' ————— A



VEGETATIVE MAT TO BE REMOVED

AREA TO BE CLEARED FOR AN
EXPANSION OF THE SOUTHERN
INDUSTRIAL PAD



(35.4c)

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

EXISTING

PROPOSED
WETLAND
FILL FOR
INDUSTRIAL
PAD

GRAVIS/PETERSON ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING, INC.

339 2ND STREET
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701

PROJECT No: 1091-02

FILE: 1008/09/Figures/Permit Application Figures/2004/FIG 9

GREAT NORTHWEST, Inc.

VIEW OF PROPOSED EXPANSION TO SOUTHERN INDUSTRIAL PAD

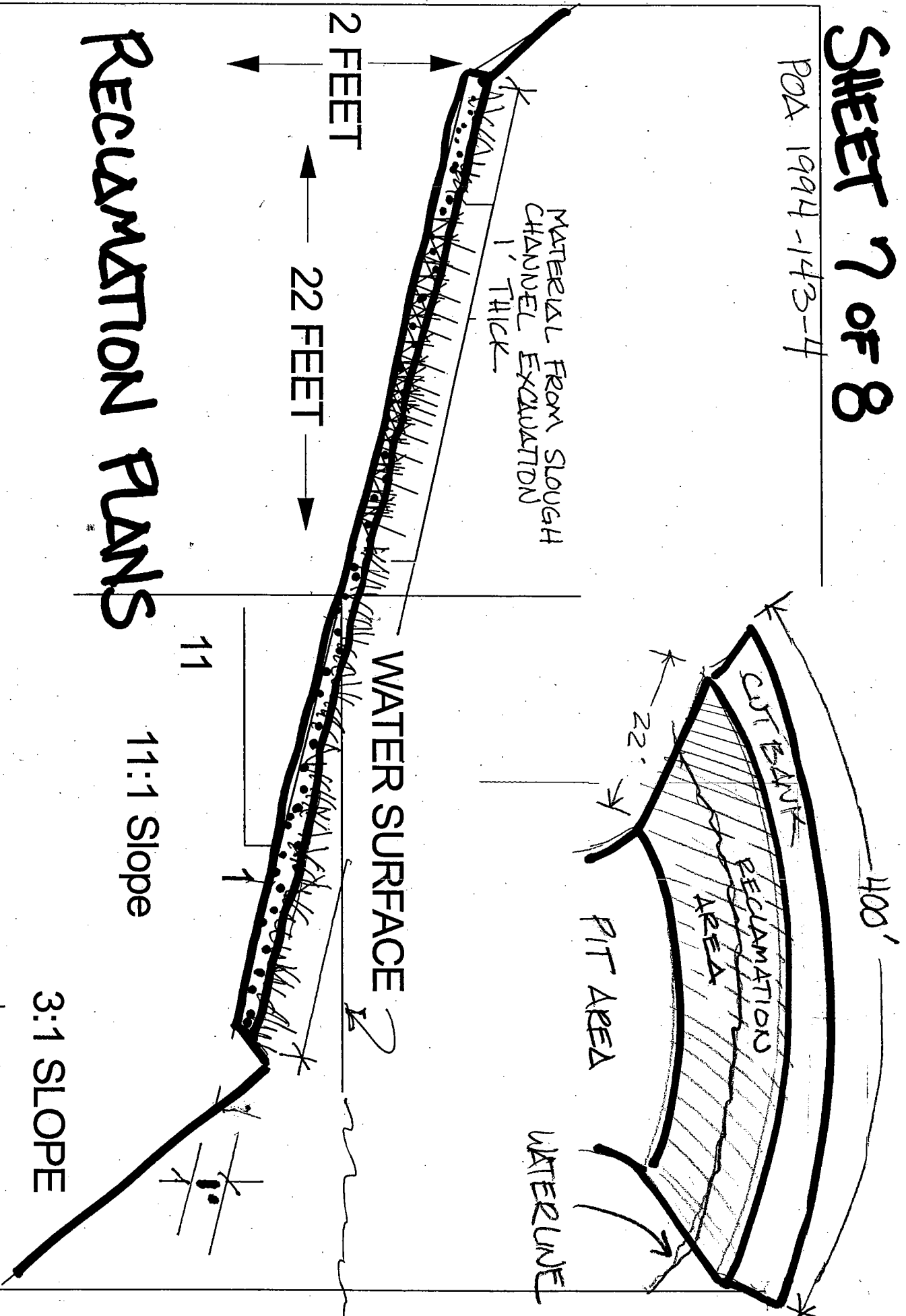
DATE: 11/30/04

SCALE: No Scale

FIGURE 9

SHEET 7 of 8

POA 1994-143-4



RECLAMATION PLANS

TRAVIS/PETERSON ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING, INC.
329 2ND STREET
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701
PROJECT No: 1008-09

FILE: 1008/09/Figures/Permit Application Figures/2004/fig 7

GREAT NORTHWEST, Inc.

FIGURE 7
RECLAMATION ALONG SIDES OF GRAVEL PIT
DATE: 11/30/04
SCALE: No Scale

